

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3986

UNCLAS NICOSIA 2066

ALSO FOR EUR/EX

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER CGEN

SUBJECT: FSL'S FOR VISA SECTION

REF: CLARK/CLIFT TELCON JUL 21

1. POST'S LEBANESE VISA WORKLOAD SURGED ABRUPTLY IN APRIL.

FROM APRIL THROUGH JUNE, POST ISSUED 45 IV'S TO FORMER RESIDENTS OF LEBANON, AND IV ISSUANCE FOR MONTH OF JULY ALONE WILL INCLUDE 29 LEBANESE CASES. AUGUST IV APPOINTMENTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO 31 FORMER LEBANON RESIDENTS, AND WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO SCHEDULE AUGUST DATES FOR 31 OTHER PERSONS WHOSE CASES ARE BEING TRANSFERRED FROM BEIRUT. POST HAS PREFERENCE AND IMMEDIATE RELATIVE PETITIONS ON FILE FOR AT LEAST 28 PERSONS, AND BY OUR INFORMAL TALLY 50 LEBANESE PRESENTLY IN CYPRUS HAVE ASKED RELATIVES TO FILE NECESSARY PETITIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE EXPECT THAT MOST OF THESE PERSONS WILL BE READY FOR VISA ISSUANCE IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER. NEW IV CASES COME TO OUR ATTENTION DAILY.

2. LEBANESE NIV APPLICANTS FAR OUTNUMBER CYPRIOTS. IN JUNE, LEBANESE ACCOUNTED FOR 115 OUT OF TOTAL 141 NIV CASES. FOLLOWING ARE FIGURES FOR LEBANESE NIV CASES SINCE APRIL, WITH LEBANESE NIV REFUSALS SHOWN IN PARENTHESIS: APRIL-30(14), MAY-29(21), JUNE-63(52).

3. LEBANESE NIV INTERVIEWS AND GENERAL INQUIRIES REQUIRE
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CONSIDERABLE FSL AND FSO MANHOURS. CASES OFTEN PRESENT

UNUSUAL PROBLEMS, AND HIGH NIV REFUSAL RATE GENERATES TIME-CONSUMING CONGRESSIONAL AND SPECIAL INTEREST CORRESPONDENCE. CONSOFF, WHO NORMALLY SPENDS APPROXIMATELY 25 PERCENT OF HER TIME ON VISA FUNCTION, WORKS NEARLY 100 PERCENT ON VISAS.

4. VISA APPLICANTS AT NICOSIA ARE PRIMARILY CHRISTIANS FROM JOUNIEH, BUT NUMBERS OF MOSLEMS AND OF FORMER RESIDENTS OF TRIPOLI ARE INCREASING.

5. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VISAS ISSUED IN APRIL, MAY, JUNE 76 IS NOT UP SPECTACULARLY FROM SAME PERIOD IN 75 BUT URGENCY AND COMPLEX PROCESSING PROBLEMS RESULT IN EACH CASE TAKING MORE STAFF TIME. LAST YEAR IV'S WERE ALMOST ALL CYPRIOTS WHOSE CASES COULD BE PROCESSED IN SCHEDULED FASHION. THIS YEAR LEBANESE IV PROCESSING IS ALWAYS DONE AT FORCED PACE. IN ADDITION WE CAN SEE THAT NUMBER OF REGULAR AND LEBANESE IV'S TO BE ISSUED IN AUGUST WILL BE UP SUBSTANTIALLY FROM AVERAGE 1975.
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